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RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

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Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Opening of the Conference

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be convened at the Riocentro Exhibition and Convention Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Wednesday, 20 June 2012. Rule 17 of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (see A/CONF.216/PC/4) provides that the Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, any member of the Secretariat designated by him for that purpose, shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

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In its resolution 66/197, the General Assembly decided that the formal opening plenary meeting, to be held during the morning of Wednesday, 20 June, would also hear statements from the President of the Economic and Social Council and the nine major groups. At the ceremonial opening of the Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, 20 June during the afternoon plenary meeting, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

2. Election of the President

Rule 6 of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference provides that the Conference shall elect a President from among the representatives of participating States. Rule 44 provides that all elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

At the time of the issuance of the present document, negotiations continue on the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (to be issued under symbol A/CONF.216/2)

4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference

In accordance with rule 18 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Conference shall, at its first meeting, adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (A/CONF.216/1)

5. Election of officers other than the President

The election of officers other than the President will be held in accordance with the rules of procedure.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters

In its resolution 64/236, the General Assembly decided to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. It also decided that a preparatory committee would be established within the framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development to carry out the preparations for the Conference.

On 19 May 2010, the Preparatory Committee decided to include the report of the Co-Facilitators on the deliberations of Contact Group 1 in the report on its first session (see A/CONF.216/PC/5, annex II).

In its resolution 66/197, the General Assembly decided that the Conference would be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the resolution.

The rules of procedure will have a number of provisions on the organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters. A note by the Secretariat on organizational and procedural matters, including a proposed timetable for the work of the Conference, will be before the Conference for its consideration.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on organizational and procedural matters (A/CONF.216/3)

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference

(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

Rule 4 of the draft provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference, and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-sixth session.

(b) Report of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with rule 4 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

8. General debate

In its resolution 66/197, the General Assembly decided that the list of speakers for the plenary meetings would be established by the drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Statements will be limited to five minutes.

Rule 20 of the draft provisional rules of procedure provides that no one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The Secretariat will be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

9. Reports of round tables

In its resolution 66/197, the General Assembly decided that the Conference would hold four high-level round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 20 June 2012, from 4.30 to 7.30 p.m.; Thursday, 21 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.; and Friday, 22 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The four high-level round-table sessions will have a common theme, "Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference", and will have the following modalities:

(a) Each high-level round table will have two Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or

Government and ministers attending the Conference, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the Chairs of regional groups. The outcomes of the round tables will be reflected in summaries by the Rapporteurs, which will be submitted to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference;

(b) The four round-table sessions will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature, with 70 seats each: up to 50 for Government delegations and at least 20 for other participants, including representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Member States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat to sign up for participation in one of the round tables in advance of the Conference, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above. The opening of the inscription for participation in the round tables will be announced in the Journal of the United Nations;

(c) Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the round tables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser;

(d) The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting;

(e) The proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in an "overflow room" which will be open to the media and all other accredited participants.

10. Outcome of the Conference

In its resolution 64/236, the General Assembly decided that the Conference would result in a focused political document. At its second session, held in March 2011, the Preparatory Committee decided on the process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the Conference (see A/CONF.216/PC/9). In its resolution 66/197, the Assembly strongly encouraged Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee.

Documentation

Draft resolution containing the outcome document of the Conference (A/CONF.216/L._)

11. Adoption of the report of the Conference

The Conference will adopt a report on its activities, a draft of which will be prepared by the Rapporteur-General and presented to the Conference for its approval.

Documentation

Draft report of the Conference (A/CONF.216/L._)

12. Closure of the Conference